

Ingenuity Pays Off For Arsenal Worker



EFFICIENT IDEA—James J. Oliver, left, received a check for \$50 and an army citation for a suggestion at Joliet Arsenal which has saved the government thousands of dollars in labor and steam used in oil heating and unloading. Capt. Darrell Griffin, right, post engineer, presents Oliver with his citation. (U. S. army photo.)

Thanks to the ingenuity of James J. Oliver, foreman of boiler plants at Joliet Arsenal, the government has saved many thousands of dollars.

About two years ago, Oliver observed that many incoming tank cars, containing heavy industrial fuel oil, had defective heating coils and unloading valves. This frequently caused excessive labor, time and many unloading problems.

COST-CONSCIOUS and believing that a system could be developed to eliminate demurrage (extra charges on freight cars kept at a destination longer than scheduled), he devised a portable spiral heating coil. When lowered thru the dome of the tank car, the coil quickly and efficiently heats the oil to proper pumping temperature.

Since this method has been in operation, it has saved the government many thousands of dollars in labor and steam used in oil heating and unloading. Recognizing that the idea may be workable in other government facilities, the Arsenal awards board has submitted the suggestion to higher echelon for broader application.

RECENTLY OLIVER received a check for \$50 for his idea, and an Army suggestion citation.

A graduate of Forrest, Ill., High school, Oliver was employed at the

Elwood Ordnance plant from 1941 to December, 1942, when he entered the armed forces. He was one of the survivors of the disastrous explosion which occurred at EOP in June, 1942, when scores of persons were killed in the land mine unit blast.

FOLLOWING his discharge from the Army in 1946, he accepted an appointment as operating engineer at the Arsenal and in the ensuing years has attained the position of foreman in charge of all boiler plants.

He has a wife, Bernadine, and a daughter, Mary Sue, 2. As a hobby he assists in a community gardening project at the Arsenal for employees.